

OK BREATHE AURALEE

a film by Brooke Pepion Swaney

STARRING KENDRA MYLNECHUK WITH PETER O'LEARY

NATHANIEL ARCAND AND JACKIE ROTH EXECUTIVE PRODUCER MICHAEL ALEXANDER

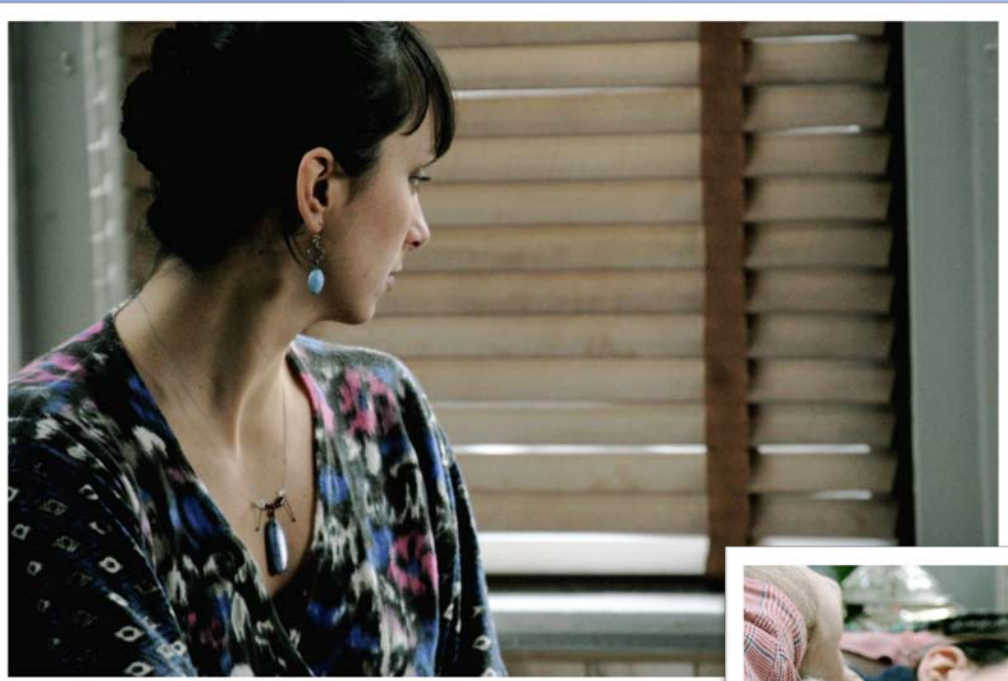
PRODUCER EMILY RAY REESE DIRECTOR OF PHOTOGRAPHY ZELMIRA GAINZA PRODUCTION DESIGN LAURA HUSTON

COMPOSER LAURA ORTMAN EDITOR SHRIPRIYA MAHESH SOUND SCOTT HIRSCH



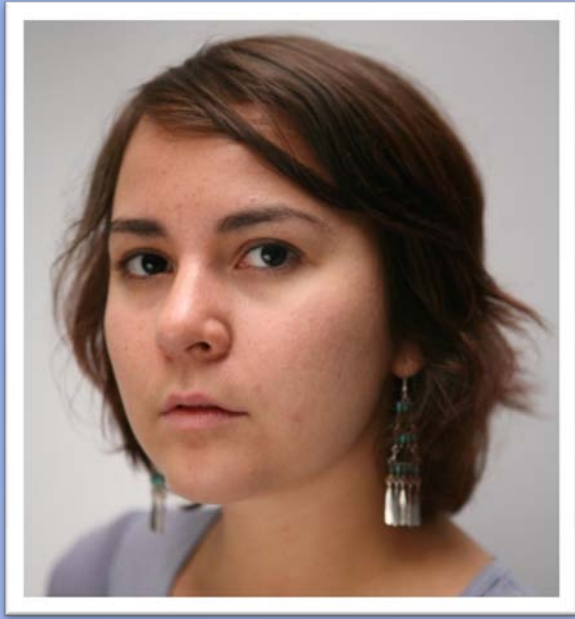
Logline

Baby-crazed Auralee finds herself drifting away from her baby-reluctant boyfriend, Colin, and searching for something more.



Synopsis

Auralee wants to escape a seemingly fading existence by having a baby. Her boyfriend, Colin, doesn't share her desire to define their existence with a child. As a last ditch attempt to reconnect with her indigenous roots, she decides to try to find a Native American sperm donor. She discovers that donors are hard to come by, which leads to an odd encounter on a street corner with a stranger. Just as she begins to question staying with Colin at all, he decides he is ready to start a family with her.



Director's Bio

Brooke Pepion Swaney (Blackfeet & Salish) is a film director and writer, who received her M.F.A. in Film and Television from Tisch School of the Arts, New York University. She has made several short films while at NYU, including *Continental Divide* (2008 ImagineNATIVE Film + Media Arts Festival and 2008 Winnipeg Aboriginal Film Festival). Prior to NYU, she worked in at a non-profit, the Indian Law Resource Center, a legal organization dedicated to protecting the land and culture of Indigenous people throughout the Western Hemisphere. In 2003, she graduated with honors from Stanford in psychology, writing an honors thesis on the media's effect on American Indians. Brooke, a curious and observant child, has cultivated her inquisitive nature in her work. Her first film, *The Indigenoid*, showed a young Native man awakening to the Native stereotypes in everyday life. It was nominated for Best Live Short at the 2005 American Indian Film Festival in San Francisco. Brooke was accepted to the Montana Artists Refuge during their 2009 American Indian Artists Residency and their October Writers Residency. In 2009, she was also a finalist in a time sensitive short film competition for the Madrid tourism board.

Director's Statement



“OK BREATHE AURALEE initially came out of working on a collaborative piece with another writer I met while at the Montana Artist Refuge. The idea was to write a feature-length, character-driven, episodic film loosely based around the concepts of the four elements, urban Indians and the mystical in everyday life. After banging our heads against several proverbial walls on the Water and Fire episodes, Air came to me fairly quickly and I took the driver's seat for the story. I asked my Dad about the significance of air in Blackfeet traditions which led to a discussion about how air can be the power of life and breath. So I played with those ideas in Auralee's story. I also wanted to explore issues regarding identity and adoption, as identity is something that follows Native people around well beyond coming of age and college, and is something that we must continually assert in order to be recognized by the dominant culture. So, how do Native people who have been adopted away from their communities assert their identity from a place of ignorance?

I imagined that Auralee would feel like part of herself was absent in some way, and so there was an element of disappearance in a magical realism sort of way. It seems to me that many films that deal with minorities are driven more by a documentary style camera, "exposing" their gritty lives. However, I chose to reject a documentary aesthetic in favor of something more stylized.

People ask me if this story is based on my life or my experience, it's not. But amazingly, Kendra Mylnechuk who played Auralee, is adopted, though I didn't know it at the time of casting her. Laura Ortman, a White Mountain Apache composer, is also adopted. And while I am a woman, I have not been driven to a sperm bank for want of a child, but I do know friends who have dabbled in the world of fertility—and I do know women greatly affected by the power of a ticking biological clock. Like many graduates from the Film & Television program at New York University, I dream to direct my own films—and it has been a decade long dream to get into Sundance. Now, I just want to continue the craft in whatever shape or form I can.”

Quick Facts

Title: OK Breathe Auralee

Director: Brooke Pepion Swaney

Producer: Emily Ray Reese

Executive Producer: Michael Alexander

Length: 16 min

Language: English

Camera: Red, Canon 5D

Aspect ratio: 2:1 (converted to 1:85:1)

Speed: 23.98

Sound: Stereo

Composer: Laura Ortman

Editor: Shripriya Mahesh

Cinematographer: Zelmira Gainza

Production Designer: Laura Huston

Cast: Kendra Mylnechuk, Peter O'Leary, Nathaniel Arcand, Jackie Roth

Budget: \$23,000 USD



Credits

CAST

Auralee	KENDRA MYLNECHUK
Colin	PETER O'LEARY
Randy	NATHANIEL ARCAND
Doctor	JACKIE ROTH
Pregnant Lady	JESSE BRODSKY
Extras	MEGHAN HARRINGTON
	KRISTEN SWANBECK
	SALLY KEWAYOSH
	NICHOLAS NAYLOR-LELAND
	SAM DODGE
	HEATHER DODGE
	NICHOLE ALEXANDER

CREW

Writer/Director	BROOKE PEPION SWANEY
Executive Producer	MICHAEL ALEXANDER
Producer	EMILY RAY REESE
Director of Photography	ZELMIRA GAINZA
Production Designer	LAURA HUSTON
Editor	SHRIPRIYA MAHESH
Composer	LAURA ORTMAN
Sound Designer & Mixer	SCOTT HIRSCH
Unit Production Manager	EIRIK FORUS
Assistant Director	LAPO MELZO
2 nd Assistant Director	STEPHEN BONDOR

Sound Recordist
Steadicam Operators

MATTHEW BETLEJ
IAN WOOLSTON
MICHAEL FUCHS

Steadicam Asst Camera
Camera Assistants

CORY LONAS
MARCOS HERRERA
GIOVANNI AUTRAN
KONSTANTIN YELISEVICH

Gaffer
Grips

PERRY BLACKSHEAR
KEVIN KUSINA
DANIEL APRIL
ANDINH HA
FELIPE ROSA
JOHN NIJHAWAN

Production Assistants

SARAH MURAT
RYAN DECKER

Art Production Assistants

JAY FRANKLIN

PETER LEE
KATE GLEASON
MOLLYE ASHER

Still Photographers

ACHIM NEUFELD
VINCENT MA

Associate Editor
Assistant Editor
Visual FX
Colorist
Recording Engineer

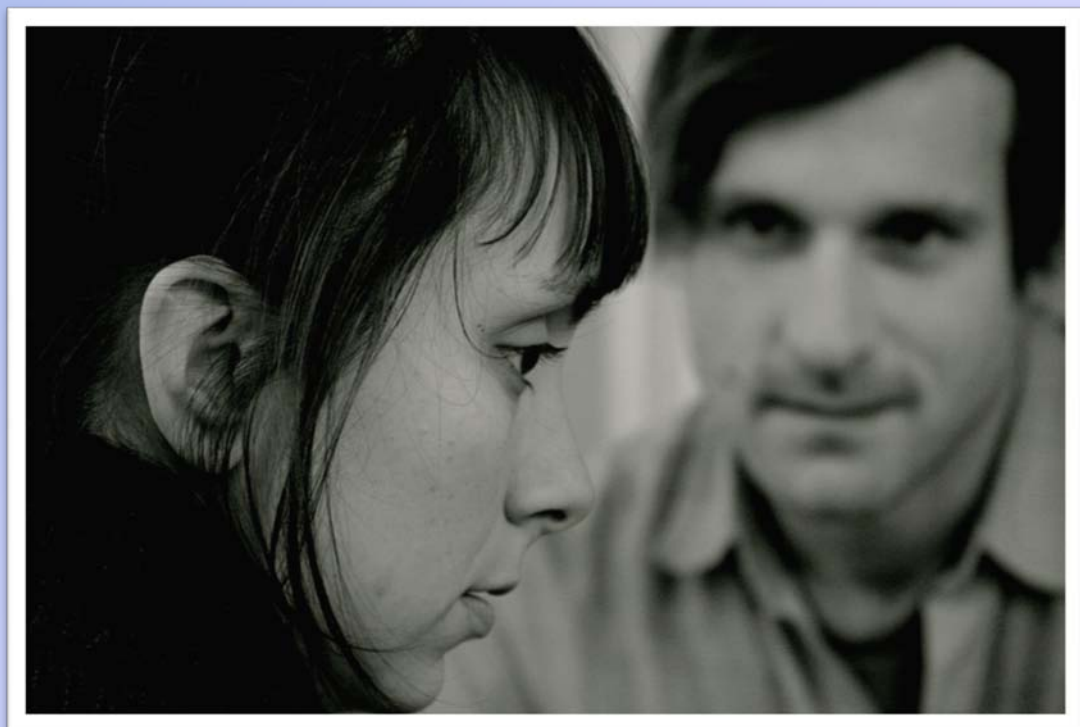
GIOVANNI AUTRAN
EVAN LEED
OLGA MAYER
DUCMINH NGYUEN
MICHAEL CARRERA



THANK YOU

Ellen Swaney, Don Pepion, Michael Alexander, Lucy Dayton & Mark O'Keefe, Darwin Hill, Jim Mullins & Lynn Hinch, Jennifer Crenshaw Pryor & William B. Crenshaw, Luana Ross & Dan Hart, Maya Powch, Katie Carlson, Linda Carlson, Jennifer Steiger, Justin Pront, Christina Starcic, Suzanne & Robert Kirkpatrick, Rachelle McManus, Gyda Swaney & Ray Ochoa, Liz Cretti Olson, Hjordis Bearchum, Patrik Graham, Gilhousen Foundation, Meghan Harrington, Tommy Orange, Vincent Ma, Heather & Sam Dodge, Kristen Swanbeck, Jared McCormick, Sara Young, Aubrey Harms, Gabe Furshong, Michael Duca, Regina Richter, Nichole Alexander, Crystal Water, Nicholas Naylor-Leland, Annie Connole, Andrew Roth, Lisa & Markus Kelley, Melissa Bangs, Kimberly Harrington, Craig Harrington, Shane Roach, Joel Karki & Jodi Guenther, Geri Cross & Bill Zaner, Janet Germane, Becca Leaphart, Tyrrell Hibbard, Bill & Babs Leaphart, Blessed Knew, Mick Casale, Sally Kewayosh, Sam Newman, Gail Segal, Jay Anania, Spike Lee, John Tintori, Rene Haynes, Andrew Smith, Tyler Potter, Michael Hosenfeld, Emily Gumpel Clifton, Jarrah Gurrie, Ian Harnarine, Arielle Reinstein, Sequoyah Hunter-Cuyjet, Amber Robertson, Mica Valdez, Julie Fife, Marika Smith, Leena Minifie, Marie Dvorakova, Danielle Soames, MJ Williams & Nancy Owens

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